

EXCAVATOR SEMI-AUTOMATIC QUICK HITCH CHECKLIST

QUESTIONS	Y/N	COMMENT
<p>RISK ASSESSMENT: Safe use of quick hitches is one aspect of the safe use of excavators. Risk assessments should consider all potential hazards arising from use of excavators. Training and awareness of those working near excavators and associated safe systems of work will be key controls in managing these hazards.</p> <p>Analysis of construction sector excavator related fatalities from 1999-2009 reveals 36 excavator related deaths. Detachment and fall of the excavator bucket accounts for 19% (7) of those deaths. Other causes of excavator related fatalities are: reversing (17%), struck by bucket (when attached) (14%), slewing (14%), hit by load (8%), going forward (8%) and overturning (8%).</p>		
Has an assessment of the risk arising from the use of semi-automatic quick hitches been undertaken?		
<p>ESSENTIAL PRECAUTIONS: The quick hitch should not be used unless the answer is 'YES' to all these questions.</p>		
Are the <u>manufacturer instructions</u> for the quick hitch available?		
Is the <u>manufacturer-specified retaining pin</u> , designed for the specific use, available on the machine?		
Has the excavator <u>operator</u> been instructed not to use the machine unless <u>satisfied that the quick hitch is secured in place</u> ?		
Has the excavator <u>operator received training</u> in the use of quick hitches?		
Is excavator <u>operator competent to use the specific hitch</u> on the machine operated by them?		
Is there a <u>system of operator checks</u> that the pin is in place on the hitch before starting the work and when a different attachment is fitted?		
Is there a <u>system of random inspections</u> by a supervisor or manager to check the above precautions are being implemented?		
<p>ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS: HSE guidance identifies other actions that QH users could consider.</p>		
Are there arrangements for any loose pins or clips to be retained or attached to the quick hitch?		
Has the area around safety pin insertion holes been painted to make it clear where the pin should be inserted?		
Has the pin been painted to make it more visible?		
Has the pin been modified (in consultation with the manufacturer) so that it cannot be fully removed from the hitch?		
Have groundworkers been provided with awareness training on the risk and provided with instruction on systems of work that do not require work below the bucket e.g. in excavations?		
<p>Person conducting check:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>		